

R E M A R K S

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-36 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-17 and 29-36 are rejected. Claims 18-28 are allowed. Accordingly, Claims 1-36 are now pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,715,372 issued to Meyers et al. (hereinafter “Meyers”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,578,007 issued to Howes et al. (hereinafter “Howes”). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Meyers teaches an apparatus that extracts a feature set from of an input signal. A feature extraction system 20 derives the feature set from the input signal (Meyers, Figure 1). The feature set is described as a group of signal parameters which characterize the input signal. The feature set extracted from the input signal is sent from the feature extraction system 20 to an intelligent system 30. The intelligent system 30 determines a relationship between the feature set and corresponding signal characteristics. Meyers teaches that the intelligent system 30 operates on the feature set to produce an output signal which characterizes the input signal for the attribute being measured.

Within the Office Action, it is stated that Meyers in view of Howes teaches the claimed limitations of independent apparatus claim 1. Specifically, on the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action, it is stated that Meyers teaches “extracting a feature set”, which is said to teach the claimed limitation “means for extracting an attribute from the output.” To support this assertion, column 2, lines 35-39 of Meyers is cited. Column 2, lines 35-39 of Meyers teaches in part “[t]he selected feature set is then extracted from a first input signal.” (emphasis added) Clearly, Meyers teaches extracting the feature set from the input signal, not from an output signal as claimed. There is no hint, teaching, or suggestion within Meyers that indicates a means for extracting a feature set from an output signal, where the output signal is an automatically

transcribed output signal generated in response to an input.

The independent Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus for improving productivity of human review of an automatically transcribed output generated by an information processing system, wherein the output is generated in response to an input. The apparatus includes means for extracting an attribute from the output, and means for selecting one of a plurality of human reviewers based on the attribute. As discussed above, Meyers teaches extracting a feature set from an input signal. Meyers does not teach extracting a feature set from an output signal. For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Meyers and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 2-6 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Meyers. Accordingly, Claims 2-6 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 6-17 and 29-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,122,614 issued to Kahn et al. (hereinafter “Kahn”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,595 issued to Romano et al. (hereinafter “Romano”). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The present invention teaches a server that receives and stores voice files created by users of the system. The server is coupled to a speech-to-text media conversion system to receive converted text files of the audio voice files. The server includes a reviewer database that stores a plurality of skill sets for each of the reviewers. A skill set is a list of keywords that a reviewer is familiar with. For instance, for a reviewer proficient in reviewing or transcribing medical documents, his skill set will include common medical terms. The server determines which one of the reviewers should review the text document. The server makes this decision by first extracting a list of keywords from the converted text file. The keywords are extracted from the text file by searching the document and comparing it to a keyword database. The server then matches the list of keywords to a skill set within the reviewer database. If the skill set of a reviewer matches the keywords, and if that particular reviewer is available, the server will route the text document file and pointers corresponding to the voice file to a workstation associated with the reviewer.

Kahn teaches matching two different converted text documents, both related to the same voice file, and determining words that don't match when comparing the two text documents to each other. Kahn teaches determining a list of words that do not match. In other words, Kahn teaches means for extracting a list of words from a first text document that do not match words from a second text document (Kahn, col. 2, lines 34-38).

Romano teaches presenting constructed responses through electronic workfolders for human evaluation. Constructed responses are defined as open-ended responses, such as essay answers, to test questions. The constructed responses are sent to a reader or rater for evaluation and for receiving scores from the reader.

Within the Office Action, it is stated that Kahn teaches means for extracting a keyword from an automatically transcribed document, as claimed. However, within the Office Action, it is acknowledged that Kahn does not teach selecting a reviewer based on a keyword. It is stated that Romano teaches choosing a reviewer (reader) based on a correlation between the information of the document and the reviewer's (reader's) rating. However, there is no teaching within Romano to support this assertion. The cited portion of Romano, column 4, lines 39-44, states that "A processor accesses the database and selects and transmits constructed response electronic workfolders to the rater stations. The selection of constructed responses to transmit to the rater stations may be based on whether the rater working at the rater station is in training or has been qualified and is actually scoring production responses." There is no teaching within this citation that indicates the constructed response is assigned to the rater based on a keyword extracted from the constructed response. In fact, Romano teaches to the contrary.

Romano teaches that the constructed responses are initially categorized in a production category and are reviewed by two or more raters as part of the normal production scoring operation (Romano, col. 3, lines 37-53). Once reviewed by the raters, the constructed response is automatically transmitted to a test developer for categorization (Romano, col. 3, lines 53-56). The test developers determine a category for each constructed response (Romano, col. 3, lines 60-61). There are six categories into which these reviewed constructed responses are categorized. The categories include calibration, certification, training sample, monitoring, benchmark, and rangefinder. A rater selects a category, and the system lists available constructed responses from the selected category that also match the rater's qualification status (Romano, col. 4, lines 45-52). In summary, Romano teaches that all constructed responses are

initially categorized in a production category. Once reviewed, and if the constructed response is scored the same by all raters, then the constructed response is categorized by the test developer. Romano does not teach that the constructed responses is categorized according to a keyword extracted from the constructed response. Further, Romano teaches that the rater selects the category, and that the system then determines if the rater is qualified to rate the category that he has selected. Romano does not teach that the rater is selected by the system. Romano also does not teach that the rater is selected by the system in response to any keyword extracted from the constructed response. As such, neither Kahn, Romano, nor their combination teach selecting a reviewer based on a keyword extracted from a document.

The independent Claim 7 is directed to an apparatus for facilitating review of an automatically transcribed document generated by a media conversion system, wherein the document is generated in response to an input. The apparatus includes means for extracting a keyword from the document, means for selecting one of a plurality of reviewers in response to the keyword, and means for transmitting the input and the document to the selected reviewer for review. As discussed above, neither Kahn, Romano, nor their combination teach selecting a reviewer based on a keyword extracted from a document. For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the independent Claim 7 is allowable over the teachings of Kahn, Romano, and their combination and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 8-17 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 7. As discussed above, Claim 7 is allowable over the teachings of Kahn, Romano, and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 8-17 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 29 is directed to a method of improving productivity of human review of an automatically transcribed document generated by an information processing system, wherein the document is generated in response to an input. The method includes extracting an attribute from the document, and selecting one of a plurality of human reviewers based on the attribute. As discussed above, neither Kahn, Romano, nor their combination teach selecting a reviewer based on a keyword extracted from a document. For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the independent Claim 29 is allowable over the teachings of Kahn, Romano, and their combination and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 30-36 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 29. As discussed above, Claim 29 is allowable over the teachings of Kahn, Romano, and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 30-36 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

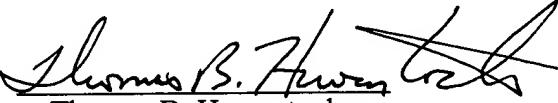
Claim 6 is dependent on the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Meyers. Accordingly, Claim 6 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 18-28 are allowed.

For at least the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submit that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 2-28-05

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR§ 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.
Date: 2/28/05 By: 